

My name is Pat Young, Haddam, Ct.

2/21/13

I support Bill No. 5566 An Act Concerning Child Safety by restricting the placement of leghold traps. I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for almost 30 years and in the past have received animals caught in traps. Two examples: A squirrel caught in a conibear trap at an apartment complex and a raccoon caught in a leghold trap. My husband went and picked up the squirrel and brought it home still in the trap.

These traps are extremely cruel causing compound fractures, ripped tendons, blood loss and acute pain. Both animals needed emergency vet care. The squirrel was in a body cast for several weeks and she never regained the use of her front paw. The raccoon, after weeks of care and antibiotic treatment had to have his leg amputated. While both animals survived, their lives were severely impacted.

Every year DEP sells trapping rights on 169 parcels of our state land. On these lands body crushing and leghold traps are used causing unbearable suffering for our wildlife. Among these parcels of land are Rocky Neck State Park, Devils Hopyard, Haddam Meadows and many more. These lands are frequented by many families with children and pets that could easily be caught in one of these traps.

Pat Young
Haddam. Ct.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Young".